

**Applicant Name** Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC)  
**Project Name** Southern District Tank Battery Cleanup Orphaned Well Plug and Abandonment, and Site Restoration

#### **Project Abstract**

The purpose of this grant request is to provide funding to properly restore an orphaned and improperly abandoned tank battery facility, remove contaminated soils, and perform surface reclamation at this site. The tank battery site has the potential of causing damage to the groundwater, surface water, and the surface at the site.

The BOGC will eliminate the threat of contamination by soliciting bids to reclaim this improperly abandoned tank battery site. Under supervision of the board's staff, the successful bidder will dig up the site, remove the buried tanks and equipment, dispose of and/or remediate contaminants, and reclaim the surface location.

The former operator could no longer afford to produce the wells, so the wells were plugged and the battery abandoned. Since the company is long since defunct, responsibility for the battery site and any potential environmental damage rests with the BOGC and the state. The battery site will be properly cleaned up when funding is made available.

The orphaned battery site is near Big Wall field, about 13 miles northeast of Roundup. By prioritizing the board's list of orphaned wells and orphaned sites, in most cases the site that presents the highest potential for damage to the environment will be plugged first.

The project is estimated to take 24 months. The work will generally begin during the first suitable field season following availability of funding.